

TOP SECRET

21 April 1950

MEMORANDUM FOR: NSO

SUBJECT: BOFIEND - Acquisition of Propaganda Broadcasting Vessel

1. It is requested that you commence at the earliest possible moment to prosecute a search in U. S. ports and yards for a sea-going vessel suitable for use in the propaganda phase of BOFIEND. When a satisfactory ship has been located, approval for its purchase and refitting will be requested from COS within the scope of the Director's approval of 23 December 1949 for the expenditure of approximately \$56,000.00. Since our present schedule calls for the vessel to commence operations in August of 1950; this is a matter of considerable urgency.

2. When a suitable vessel has been located, inspected, and approved by you, full details of cover for its acquisition will be laid on. It is probable that the vessel will be purchased to be laid down at Marseilles, France by its original crew, where it will change flag, name, and ownership.

3. The vessel must be able to fulfill the following requirements:

a. Must be able to support a propaganda staff of five men in addition to the full complement of the crew.

b. Must be able to carry sufficient water, fuel, and food to remain on station (off the heel of Italy) for at least twelve consecutive days with a full complement aboard, between return trips to base (Athens).

c. Must have a sufficient stock of engine parts and spares aboard to operate overseas independently for one year.

d. Must have sufficient space aboard to permit installation of the radio equipment (dimensions available from ☐ ☐) and to permit setting aside of one compartment as a recording and broadcasting studio.

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